



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 26, 2023

CONTACT:
Rep. Steffen (608)237-9104
Sen. Cabral-Guevara (608)266-0718

“Returning Your Surplus” Proposal Moves Ahead in the Senate

Roughly \$3 billion tax cut for middle-class and retirees receives Senate hearing

Madison, WI – Today, the Wisconsin State Senate held a public hearing on the “Returning Your Surplus” proposal. The plan is estimated to cut the state’s income tax burden by over \$2.9 billion with the average filer saving \$772. State Representative David Steffen (R-Howard) and State Senator Rachael Cabral-Guevara (R-Appleton) are the lead authors of the bill, which will deliver targeted relief to Wisconsin’s retirees and middle-class. The proposal was passed by the full Assembly earlier this month.

“This simply allows hardworking families to keep more of the money they earn,” stated Sen. Rachael Cabral-Guevara. “The state government in Madison has stockpiled billions of dollars that belong to the people of our state, it’s time that money goes back into the pockets of the folks who worked tooth and nail for it. I’m happy to see this proposal continuing through the process.”

The proposal will create a Tax-Free Retirement in Wisconsin by exempting up to \$150,000 in retirement account income for joint filers, a concept that was met with positive, bipartisan support earlier this session. Additionally, the bill provides targeted relief for middle-class families by reducing the middle-income tax rate from the current 5.3% to 4.4%.

Earlier this month, the bill was passed out of the Assembly with Democrats voting in opposition due to unfounded sustainability concerns.

“Claiming this tax-cut is unsustainable is not only inaccurate, it’s laughable given the massive spending spree that Democrats supported in the Governor’s budget. The proof is in the numbers. A historic look at Wisconsin’s growth demonstrates the sustainability of this tax-cut. Our tax revenue continues to grow—and so does our state surplus. Wisconsinites don’t want a cheap excuse, they want their money back,” said Rep. Steffen.

The bill is now available for voting action by the Senate before it can reach the Governor’s desk.

For more information please contact the office of Representative Steffen at (608)237-9104 or by email at Rep.Steffen@legis.wisconsin.gov or the office of Senator Cabral-Guevara at (608)266-0718 or by email at Sen.Cabral-Guevara@legis.wisconsin.gov.

###